

REMARKS

Claims 1-15 are pending in the application and stand rejected. Claims 1, 3, 5-6, 9, and 12 have been amended. No new matter is added. In light of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks, Applicants earnestly solicit favorable reconsideration.

On the Merits:

The Examiner sets forth the following rejections:

claims 1-3 and 5-11 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Itoh (Pub. No. 2002/0097443) in view of Uchikawa (US 6,499,066);

claim 4 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Itoh in view of Uchikawa in view of Oteki (US Pub. No. 2001/0019429); and

claims 12-15 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Itoh in view of Uchikawa in view of Tanimoto (US Pub. No. 2002/0131089).

Each of these rejections is respectfully traversed.

Independent claim 1, as amended, now calls for *a facsimile machine comprising: means for scanning an original document to generate image data; means for detecting whether an amount of the image data exceeds a prescribed image data amount; means for dividing the image data in parallel with the scanning of the original document each time the amount of the image data is detected to exceed the prescribed image data amount; and means for transmitting each divided image data by electronic mail.*

Independent claims 5, 6, 9, and 12, as amended, claim similar features.

Respectfully, it is submitted that the reference Itoh fails to disclose or fairly suggest the features of claim 1, as amended, concerning the, “*means for detecting whether an amount of the image data exceeds a prescribed image data amount; means for dividing the image data in parallel with the scanning of the original document each time the amount of the image data is detected to exceed the prescribed image data amount.*”

Itoh teaches a division/reduction unit for the particular purpose of determining the *physical* paper size (width) of a page to be scanned and then deciding whether to divide or reduce that page. See, Itoh, P[0030]. The division process includes a division of the image data into divisional lines of data. See, Itoh, Abstract. The division/reduction in Itoh is based on an assessment of the *physical* size of the document. However, Itoh fails to disclose or fairly suggest the checking of a prescribed *image data* amount, and instead decides whether to take action based on the *physical* size of the paper to be scanned. Therefore, the Itoh reference fails to teach the “means for detecting” feature of claim 1, as amended.

Additionally, Itoh teaches a facsimile device, specifically for inputting image data of a subject copy having a width in a main scanning direction larger than an A3-size width. The facsimile device of Itoh takes the subject copy that is bigger than an A3-size width and reduces the *physical* size of the subject copy. See, Abstract and P[0010], P[0030] of Itoh. Itoh does not disclose or fairly suggest dividing the image data based on a prescribed *image data* amount for the purpose of making the *image data* more manageable to transmit. Instead, Itoh teaches reducing the *physical* size of the subject copy (the width).

In view of the above, it is submitted that Itoh does not teach or failry suggest the features of claim 1 regarding a *“means for detecting whether an amount of the image data exceeds a prescribed image data amount”* and a *“means for dividing the image data in parallel with the scanning of the original document each time the amount of the image data is detected to exceed the prescribed image data amount.”*

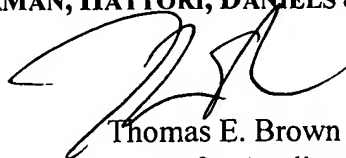
In view of the aforementioned amendments and accompanying remarks, Applicants submit that the claims, as herein amended, are in condition for allowance. Applicants request such action at an early date.

If the Examiner believes that this application is not now in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to contact Applicants' undersigned attorney to arrange for an interview to expedite the disposition of this case.

If this paper is not timely filed, Applicants respectfully petition for an appropriate extension of time. The fees for such an extension or any other fees that may be due with respect to this paper may be charged to Deposit Account No. 50-2866.

Respectfully submitted,

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